

# The Tools to Teach

Recent grants acquired by WITC covered the cost of providing a state-of-the-art lab and equipment

*By Shawnda Schelinder, Photos by Artful Eye*

What does a medical manikin that costs as much as a new car have in common with a \$2 hotdog? Both are used by WITC medical assistant (MA) and associate degree nursing (ADN) students practicing proper injection procedures. But thanks to a grant, WITC students get the latest high-tech SimMan in addition to low-tech pork products. Recent grants acquired by the college also covered the cost of providing iPads for student use, as well as a state-of-the-art lab and equipment at the Ashland campus.

The SimMan grant was shy of \$110,000 and provided benefits to each of WITC's four campuses and the Ashland campus was the benefactor of a \$191,000 grant that brought the MA program back after a five-year hiatus. That grant funded the faculty position for the Ashland program, as well as the equipment.

"One grant was for both the nursing and medical assistant program for simulation equipment. It purchased a new SimMan for each campus and some of the remodeling that we had to do with each of those rooms," says Academic Dean of Allied Health Kate Siegler. "We also purchased iPads for all of the MA students to use."

SimMan is a medical manikin that simulates many of the medical symptoms and situations students will face in a clinical setting. From tears to heart murmurs and even blue fingernails and groans of pain and distress, SimMan responds to how student treat his symptoms.

"The SimMan is such a powerful teaching tool," says Tina Hagstrom, ADN instructor. "Our students can learn about almost

every medical situation they may encounter before they even enter their clinicals. SimMan builds not only skill, but confidence levels as well when working with these new situations."

MA instructor Melissa Zeien is excited to introduce the iPads to the students. "Ideally, those will be incorporated in the business portion of the class, like insurance and administration," says Zeien.

Students still learn how to chart on paper documents, but being familiar with electronic methods will give them an advantage as many facilities phase out paper charts.

The medical assistant program is held on the Ashland campus every other year, (every year at Rice Lake) but the equipment won't collect dust on the off years. This specific section alternates between Ashland and the Rice Lake campus every other year. So when the program is held on the Rice Lake campus next fall, those students will use the new equipment. ■

